

Canadians to study acupuncture in China

Ten Canadian anaesthetists will visit the People's Republic of China in early April 1974 for six weeks to study acupuncture analgesia, Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde announced recently.

The visit forms part of the Sino-Canadian exchange program following Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to the People's Republic in October 1973 at the invitation of Premier Chou-En-lai.

In a press statement in Peking at the conclusion of his trip, Mr. Trudeau said that there had been a profitable discussion in the fields of medical science and health care, as a result, of which a number of exchange visits would take place in 1974. In this connection, China has been invited to send later this year a nine-member team of scientists (in three groups of three) for one or two months to study neurophysiology, organ transplantation, and the artificial kidney.

The Canadian anaesthetists studying acupuncture include nine physicians and one dentist from universities across the country.

When they return to Canada they will

be in a position to teach the techniques of analgesic acupuncture and supervise research in this field.

In the report of the delegation organized by the Canadian Medical Association that visited the People's Republic of China in April 1973, mention was made of several new areas in medicine in that country worthy of study including acupuncture. Commenting on the report with reference to this subject, Mr. Lalonde noted that neither the delegation nor the Chinese medical authorities regarded acupuncture as a "cure-all". It was important, he said, that these matters "be studied closely and proven effective in the Canadian setting before they were introduced to health care delivery systems here".

The CMA delegation, which included Dr. J.M. LeClair, the Deputy Minister of Health, recommended an exchange of physicians and scientists between the two countries to allow China to study Canadian medical programs. At the same time it would allow Canadians to study acupuncture analgesia, its use in surgical operations and for the relief of pain.

that all citizens receive an adequate pension when they retire and that the retirement age be reduced to 60 years," said Mr. Home.

The CLC will serve as a co-ordinating and motivating body for all activities by affiliated labour organizations and as a clearing house for data and information on the subject.

Inco in Japan

The signing of an agreement to form a jointly owned company in Japan was announced recently by Daido Steel Co., Ltd and The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited. Each will have a 50 percent equity in the new company, which is to be named Daido Special Alloys Ltd.

The new company, which will be located in Nagoya, Japan, will process and market special and high nickel alloys in Japan. Daido will supply the special alloys to the new company and Inco's rolling mill affiliates, the Huntington Alloy Products Division, Huntington, West Virginia, and Henry Wiggin & Company Limited, Hereford, England, will initially supply the nickel alloys.

CLC campaign to improve old age pensions

"An adequate pension for all at age 60" is the theme of a two-year campaign launched in February by the Canadian Labour Congress as part of its Citizenship Month, CLC President Donald MacDonald announced recently.

The 1.8-million member labour organization traditionally observes Citizenship Month each February and invites its affiliated organizations to take part in programs that assume national proportions.

Last year's theme "a campaign in support of senior citizens" received an excellent response from the labour movement, Mr. MacDonald said. "More unions have negotiated optional earlier retirement ages into their collective agreements; co-operation between organized labour and retirees has increased; and there is an increase in requests for pre-retirement courses at labour institutes and schools.

The campaign will be in two stages, CLC Political Education Director

George Home explains, in a circular to the 10,000-odd affiliated labour organizations across the country: this year, unions are being encouraged to establish committees to examine existing pension protection, study the needs for improvements and assist in a broad education program to rally public support for such improvements.

The second stage, which will take place in 1975, will include a political campaign to push for improved pension arrangements for retired Canadians, Mr. Home stated.

"The latest available information shows that only 2,822,336, or 39.2 per cent of paid workers are covered by private pension plans. The evidence also suggests that few workers covered by private pension plans actually draw an adequate pension when they retire. Needless to say that those on public plans only are even worse off. "The time has arrived for an all-out campaign by organized labour to ensure

Venezuela buys NE telephones

An order for 5,000 *Contempra* telephones has been awarded Northern Electric Company Limited by *Sumatelco*, one of the largest telecommunications distributing companies in Venezuela.

The first shipment will be made this month. Northern expects the transaction to lead to further sales, not only of premium telephone sets but of other telephone apparatus as well.

Pipeline plan

The Federal Government has announced that a pipeline to carry Western Canadian crude oil to Eastern Canada will be built from Sarnia to Montreal. The Sarnia-Montreal line will rely on the pipeline system through the United States. The Government's long-term goal is an all-Canadian oil pipeline system, but no time limit has been set for its construction.